Withdrawal of SPG cover to Former Prime Minister

2935. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found out the compelling reasons for the withdrawal of SPG cover to former Prime Minister (the late) Shri Rajiv Gandhi, despite his vulnerability to extreme security threat, resulting in his brutal assassination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the SPG cover to late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was withdrawn only as per the provisions of SPG Act or the security aspects were examined at the Government level;

(d) what are the details in this regard with particular reference to the perception to personal security of the former Prime Minister prevailing at the relevant time;

(e) who was the final authority in the Government ordering for the SPG withdrawal of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi; and

(f) what follow up action Government has taken to fix the responsibility for the lapses in security arrangements that facilitated the assassination of former Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (e) As per the provisions of the SPG Act 1988, after demitting the office of PM, Shri Rajiv Gandhi ceased to be entitled to the SPG security cover. The question of providing alternative security cover taking into consideration the very high level of threat to his security ws considered and guidelines for providing him security were issued by MHA. The decision to vest the responsibility for the security of Shri Rajiv Gandhi with the State/UT Governments was taken by the Central Govt.

(f) The Government of Tamil Nadu have inmformed that the State Government have called for explanations of the Police Officials who have been held responsible for lapses/dereliction of duty by the Verma Commission of Inquiry. Their explanations have been received. The State Govt. have also informed that it is quite keen to take suitable action aganist the delinquent officers. As regards Central Government Officers, the Commission has not named any officer of the Central Government for any lapse/dereliction of duty. However, the comments of the Central Government Officers on some critical observations made by the Commission against them have been obtained and decision in the cases has to be taken in the light of the observations of the Commission and the comments of the Officers.

N.S.C.N. Office In USA

2936. SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news item appearing in a section of the natinal Press that the N.S.C.N. open office in the U.S.A. for a 'greater Nagaland' outside India, is correct or baseless;

(b) if it is correct, what meaningful steps have been taken by Government to resolve it; and

(c) whether Government endorse the view that a lit-bit of military operations in the North-East regions like Manipur, Nagaland or Assam will not solve the problems of the region and that political reconciliation with a proper perspective on insurgency coupled by faster developmental processes and clean administration only will resolve the situation towards a lasting peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the reports that the N.S.C.N. has opened an office in the U.S.A. Developments in this regard are under close watch.

(c) The problem of insurgency/extremism in the States of North Eastern Region has been there due to a multiplicity of complex inter-linked factors such as economic, social, political etc. As such, a multi pronged strategy is being followed for bringing this problem to an end. The policy of the Government has been on the one hand to deal firmly with those indulging in violent activities and on the other hand to encourage them to join the national mainstream provided they adjure violence and agree to work within the framework of the Constitution. It has been recognised that economic development process has to be expedited for creation of infrastructure and adequate employment opportunities particularly for the umemployed youth. State Governments have been advised to ensure financial discipline and accountability so that the benefits of development reach the common man particularly in the remote and rural areas.

Involvement of Politicians in Bombay Blast

2937. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the charge sheet filed against Sanjay Dutt and others in the designated Bombay Court; and

(b) whether it is a fact that politicians are involved in Bombay blast; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The specific allegations against Sanjay Dutt are that he intentionally and knowingly procured three AK-56 rifles, 25 hand grenades and cartridges from accused Anis Ibrahim Kaskar through accused Sameer Ahmed Hingora, Hanif Kadawala and others. After a few days, he returned two AK-56 rifles, hand grenades and some cartridges to accused Sameer Ahmed Hingora and Hanif Kadawala. The remaining were retained by him. These were later removed by accused Yusuf Nalwala from his residence on his instructions with the intention of destroying the evidence, parts of which were recovered during the investigation along with a 9 m.m. pistol, which he had procured in September 1992 from one Qayyum, a Dawood associate, which was handed over to other accused persons and recovered at their instance. A single charge-sheet has been filed against all the accused including Sanjay Dutt and they have been charged to have conspired:—

1. to wage war against the Government of India;
2. to collect men, arms, ammunition and explosive with the intention of waging war against Government of India;
3. to destabilise the Government of India engineering violence in different parts of India;
4. to overaway by means of criminal force the Government of Maharashtra and Government of India;
5. to create instability in the country by the aforesaid subversive activity as well as by engineering communal riots between Hindus and Muslims;
6. to terrorise the people in different part of India by indulging in wanton killings and destruction of property through bomb attacks and use of fire arms;
7. to adversely affect harmony between different sections of the people;
8. to exploit the communal sentiments of Muslims and to provoke them in the name of religion to resort to terrorist acts;
9. to organise training camps in Pakistan to impart training to Indian Muslim youths in handling arms, ammunition and explosives for at-